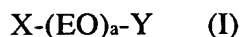


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

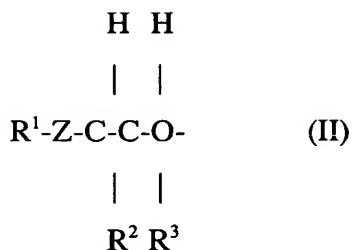
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A defoaming agent for cementitious compositions, ~~obtained by mixing comprising a mixture of~~ at least one polyethylene oxide derivative and at least one nonionic defoaming agent, wherein the polyethylene oxide derivative has at one end a hydrophobic group with at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond, and at the other end an anionic group, wherein the unsaturated bond is optionally a double bond.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the polyethylene oxide derivative is a compound expressed by formula I:



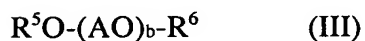
wherein X is a hydrophobic group comprising at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond; Y is an ~~anion~~ anionic group; EO is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ and a is an integer from 6 to 100.

4. (Original) The defoaming agent according to claim 3 wherein a is an integer from 15 to 60.
5. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein the hydrophobic group comprising at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond is expressed by formula II:



wherein Z is O or an amine; R¹, R² and R³ are each independently alkyl or phenyl, naphthyl, alkenyl, alkylene oxide with 2 to 4 carbon atoms or any derivatives thereof, and R² and R³ may also be each independently H, with the proviso that R¹ is not alkyl when R² and R³ are both H.

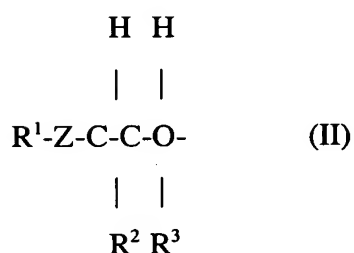
6. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 5~~, wherein the ~~anion~~ anionic group is -SO₃M, -(CH₂CH₂)OSO₃M, -R⁴COOM (wherein R⁴ is -C_mH_{2m}- (in which m is an integer 10 > m > 0 ~~and preferably 1 or 2~~) or a phenyl group), -PO₃M or -CO(CH₂)_nCOOM (wherein M is Na salt, K salt, Ca salt, Mg salt, NH₄ salt or H, n is 2 or 3).
7. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to ~~any of the claims claim 1 to 6~~ wherein the nonionic defoaming agent is expressed by formula III:



wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently an aliphatic hydrocarbon with 10 to 25 carbon atoms, an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms or H; AO is a block polymer and/or a random polymer constituted of alkylene oxide with 2 to 3 carbon atoms and b is an integer from 5 to 500.

8. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 7 obtained by mixing~~ wherein the polyethylene oxide derivative and the nonionic defoaming agent are at a ratio in the range of 20:80 to 60:40 (wt%).

9. (Original) The defoaming agent according to claim 7, wherein the nonionic defoaming agent, when converted to polyethylene glycol, has a weight average molecular weight in the range from 300 to 30,000 and the weight ratio of the ethylene oxide in said molecular weight is in the range of 5 to 80%.
10. (Currently Amended) A water-reducing composition comprising a blend of a polycarboxylate-type high performance air-entraining (AE) water-reducing agent and a defoaming agent according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[-9]]~~.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of defoaming a cementitious composition by the addition to the composition of a defoaming agent according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[-9]]~~.
12. (New) The defoaming agent of claim 6 wherein m is 1 or 2.
13. (New) The defoaming agent according to claim 3, wherein the hydrophobic group comprising at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond is expressed by formula II:



wherein Z is O or an amine; R¹, R² and R³ are each independently alkyl or phenyl, naphthyl, alkenyl, alkylene oxide with 2 to 4 carbon atoms or any derivatives thereof, and R² and R³ may also be each independently H, with the proviso that R¹ is not alkyl when R² and R³ are both H.

14. (New) The defoaming agent according to claim 3, wherein the anionic group is -SO₃M, -(CH₂CH₂)OSO₃M, -R⁴COOM (wherein R⁴ is -C_mH_{2m}- (in which m is an

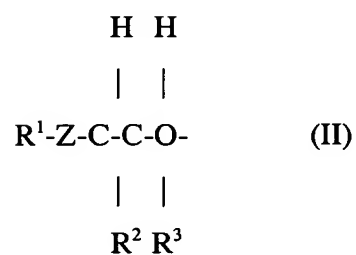
integer $10 > m > 0$) or a phenyl group), $-\text{PO}_3\text{M}$ or $-\text{CO}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOM}$ (wherein M is Na salt, K salt, Ca salt, Mg salt, NH_4 salt or H, n is 2 or 3).

15. (New) The defoaming agent of claim 14 wherein m is 1 or 2.
16. (New) The defoaming agent according to claim 3 wherein the nonionic defoaming agent is expressed by formula III:



wherein R^5 and R^6 are each independently an aliphatic hydrocarbon with 10 to 25 carbon atoms, an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms or H; AO is a block polymer and/or a random polymer constituted of alkylene oxide with 2 to 3 carbon atoms and b is an integer from 5 to 500.

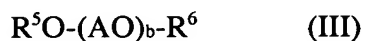
17. (New) A water-reducing composition comprising a blend of a polycarboxylate-type high performance air-entraining (AE) water-reducing agent and a defoaming agent according to claim 3.
18. (New) A method of defoaming a cementitious composition by the addition to the composition of a defoaming agent according to claim 3.
19. (New) The defoaming agent according to claim 4, wherein the hydrophobic group comprising at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond is expressed by formula II:



wherein Z is O or an amine; R¹, R² and R³ are each independently alkyl or phenyl, naphthyl, alkenyl, alkylene oxide with 2 to 4 carbon atoms or any derivatives thereof, and R² and R³ may also be each independently H, with the proviso that R¹ is not alkyl when R² and R³ are both H.

20. (New) The defoaming agent according to claim 4, wherein the anionic group is -SO₃M, -(CH₂CH₂)OSO₃M, -R⁴COOM (wherein R⁴ is -C_mH_{2m}- (in which m is an integer 10 > m > 0) or a phenyl group), -PO₃M or -CO(CH₂)_nCOOM (wherein M is Na salt, K salt, Ca salt, Mg salt, NH₄ salt or H, n is 2 or 3).

21. (New) The defoaming agent according to claim 4 wherein the nonionic defoaming agent is expressed by formula III:



wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently an aliphatic hydrocarbon with 10 to 25 carbon atoms, an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms or H; AO is a block polymer and/or a random polymer constituted of alkylene oxide with 2 to 3 carbon atoms and b is an integer from 5 to 500.